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An

Inaugural Essay

on

Cholera Morbus

for

The Degree of Doctor of Medicine

In the University of Pennsylvania

by Alexander W. Reynolds

of Delaware.

On Cholera Morbus

Cholera Morbus is derived from the greek words χολη bile and ρεω to flow. This disease in its leading and more prominent features, consists in copious discharges of bilious matter, both by vomiting and stool, accompanied with much griping and spasms.

It is chiefly incident to warm weather, but may occur at all seasons and in all climates. It has been considered, as bilious fever turned in, or expending the force of its attack on the bowels, as it is produced by the same causes and cured by nearly the same remedies.

Cholera may often be traced to some irritating or indigestible matter taken into the stomach; but cases, of this

kind seldom occur unless considerable predisposition exists; it may also be caused by cold and by suppressed perspiration, and sometimes it prevails as an epidemic. Cholera Morbus comes on with tenderness of the abdomen, pain, distention, flatulence, followed by violent vomiting and purging. As the case advances the pulse which was weak and fluttering in the commencement becomes still more so, loss of strength now comes on, hurried respiration, damp surface, cold clammy sweats, cold extremities, great thirst, anxiety, restlessness, and gastric distress. Cramps attend this stage of the disease. The symptoms designating the approach of death, are great prostration of strength, convulsions, hiccups, subsultus tendinum,

low muttering, delirium, and the hippocratic countenance; this sometimes comes on very suddenly.
Cholera Morbus resembles many of the intestinal diseases; such as Colic, Dysentery, &c. It can be distinguished from Colic, by the absence of constipation, from Dysentery by the evacuations per anum being not tinged with blood.

Causes. These are numerous viz. The external application of cold, a morbid impression made upon the stomach by intemperance in eating or drinking, an inordinate use of honey, spoiled meats, and marsh effluvia. Cases have been produced by cheese. Cholera is quite as likely to be brought on by vegetables such as Turnips, Cabbage, and Cucumbers.

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] stomach [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

He was [illegible] the [illegible]

he [illegible] Patient [illegible]

[illegible] they [illegible] he [illegible] mentioned it would [illegible] that [illegible]

[illegible] it [illegible] completely

[illegible] should in a person [illegible]
in some manner or the other, a
solemn compact with opium, has
resorted to tablets and pills to
check the vomiting and purging
and enable the poor patient
to retain the food in his stomach
as it commonly possesses the
[illegible] that it should be
the first place eaten at stomach
[illegible] and to do this
[illegible] have been found the
most important: but physicians
have to [illegible] depended upon
mucilaginous drinks, such as flax
seed [illegible] [illegible] mucilage
and many others that answer
the same end. This practice
is adapted to mild cases

[illegible]

[illegible] and [illegible] able and [illegible] [illegible]. [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] different [illegible] on the [illegible]

[illegible] ideal [illegible] and not [illegible] [illegible] do the [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

that cold water could not be for a moment obtained yet it should be so diluted. Cantharides cannot [illegible] [illegible] applied to the [illegible] they are very useful. this may be made [illegible] by means of a common brush, or pieces of leather line rubbed over the surface or by nitric acid; when the muscular contraction is much [illegible] [illegible] must [illegible] an [illegible] to e[illegible] and then dress the part with some stimulating ointment. Mr [illegible] [illegible] is recommended [illegible] [illegible] in such cases.

Acid [illegible] acid — ℥j
tinct [illegible] ℥viij
[illegible] laudanum ʒXL
[illegible] ℥j.

[illegible] little [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

the removal applied to one or more of the extremities, or keep the patient at rest and subdue the irritation, lying down just to the bed has been recommended and been administered, laudanum.

In most cases of this nature recourse must be had to the remedies above mentioned, or properly adapted; but still cases are met with that baffle the efforts of the most skilled practitioner: such cases prove and the most [illegible] are [illegible] demonstrate and prove also in a very short time common cases sometimes terminate in [illegible] to [illegible]. The disease being [illegible] to [illegible] at [illegible] cases must be avoided, and as [illegible]

and sinking, using intemperate amounts of food, paroxysms of rage, cold extremities, and [illegible] violent exercise are causes of [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] and constipation. The tonics [illegible] [illegible] by [illegible] medicines as Quassia, Magnesia, Cod liver oil &c. Bitter tonics may be employed to give tone to the stomach and thereby invigorate the system. Of these Sulphur, Quinine and Calumba are recommended.

Flannel worn next the skin should not be neglected as a preventive of diseases. I believe there is not a better preventive known for diseases of the alimentary canal than what I have just mentioned.

this Essay, which I have now brought to a conclusion; my aim has not been to offer any thing new, as to the management of Cholera. To have suggested any thing ~~any thing~~ from experience would be impossible in one so young and inexperienced, only just about to enter the temple of medicine. Speculation would have been idle and presumptuous; therefore, all that I could, and all, I hope that will be expected from one, yet lingering on its threshold, is from a review and careful study of the various means of cure recommended, to point out that course which appears most likely to answer the several indications for the management of the disease. In the hope that all

its defects will be viewed with an indulgent eye, and, its merits, if any, duly appreciated; this Essay is most respectfully submitted.